DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 8/5/83

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S):

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐

RELEASE DENIED☒ in part (b)(6)

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

(612) E (b)(2)

Dear Mr. Annunzio:

This is in reply to your letter of October 14 with which you enclosed a letter from [redacted] (b)(6) of Chicago, in which he asks a number of questions about the Liberty incident of 1967, and about Prime Minister Begin's philosophy and social appeal.

(b)(6) Regarding the Liberty incident itself, [redacted] may be interested in a summary of the proceedings of the United States Navy Court of Inquiry of 1967, which was convened to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the event; Mr. Zielinski should have many of his questions answered by this report. A copy is enclosed for your convenience. Concerning the claims arising from the Liberty incident, the Government of Israel has discharged fully individual claims for loss of life and injury, by the payment of $6.7 million. The United States Government's claim for damage to the vessel itself, which amounted to $7.6 million, has not been resolved. This latter claim was presented to the Government of Israel on July 1, 1968, and has been pressed on a number of occasions by the Department of State. We shall continue to take every appropriate occasion to press the claims issue and to remind the Government of Israel of its obligations in this regard.

In regard to Prime Minister Begin's social appeal, it may be of interest to Mr. Zielinski that in polls conducted since the election of Prime Minister Begin's Party on May 17 of this year, the Prime Minister continues to show heavy public support inside Israel.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

The Honorable
Frank Annunzio,
House of Representatives

Cleared:NEA/IAI:WBSmith
NEA:NAVeliotes
H:RFlaten

Enclosures:
1. Correspondence returned.
2. United States Navy Court of Inquiry

Drafted:NEA/IAI:AAIrwin:def
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